

Amendment No. 1 to SB0544

Gardenhire
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 544*

House Bill No. 759

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) The department of children's services shall employ at least one (1) additional attorney within each region of the state whose primary job function is to file petitions to terminate the parental rights of the parent or guardian of children in the custody of the department due to allegations of dependency and neglect.

(b) If a child has been in the custody of the department due to allegations of dependency and neglect for at least six (6) months, then the department shall conduct a review of the child's case to determine whether to file a petition to terminate the parental rights of the child's parent or guardian, pursuant to § 36-1-113(b)(1). If the department determines that termination is appropriate, then the department shall file a petition, within sixty (60) days of that determination, to terminate the parental rights of the child's parent or guardian.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect January 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it.